

## **Homeless Education Technical Assistance, Related Links and Resources**

As a service to its users, the Vermont Department of Education offers links from its Web site to resources and Web sites developed by other organizations. These links are provided as a resource only. Unless specifically stated, the inclusion of such links does not imply endorsement or support of information, products or services offered by an organization other than the Vermont Department of Education. Information contained on such linked resources should be independently verified.

For more information or to provide feedback about these resources, contact Wendy Ross, State Coordinator, Education for Homeless Children & Youth, at (802) 828-5148 or [wendy.ross@state.vt.us](mailto:wendy.ross@state.vt.us).

NOTE: Links identified below as “OSL” will take you off the department’s Web site.

### **Technical Assistance Materials**

#### **[M. Joycelyn Elders, MD Memo \(\\*PDF\)](#)**

“Former Surgeon General, Dr. Joycelyn Elders, has released a memo reinforcing the importance of following the McKinney-Vento Act’s immediate enrollment provision even when students lack immunization or other medical records. To view this memo click the link provided.” (OSL)

#### **[When Legal Guardians Are Not Present: Enrolling Students on Their Own](#)**

“The McKinney-Vento Act requires school districts to enroll homeless children and youth in school immediately, even if they lack required enrollment documentation. The Act further states to review and revise any policy that may act as a barrier to the enrollment of homeless children and youth and requires states to give particular attention to guardianship issues. To view this document click the link provided.” (OSL)

#### **[Guidance for Homeless Children in School Nutrition Programs \(\\*PDF\)](#)**

Homeless children and youth are automatically eligible for free meals through school nutrition programs. This memo describes this policy and provides information about documentation procedures that can facilitate meal eligibility. (OSL)

#### **[Health and Human Services Memo on Pre-School Services for Homeless Children\(\\*PDF\)](#)**

This memo provides guidance to homeless education liaisons and Head Start Programs to support recruitment and enrollment of homeless children and their families into the Head Start Program. (OSL)

#### **[FERPA and Homeless Students: Understanding and Applying the Law](#)**

“FERPA, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (20 USC 1232g), is the primary federal law governing education records. The fact sheet provides an overview of the legislation while explaining its relevance to the education of homeless children and youth. FERPA’s primary provisions include; Parental Access to Records, Non-Parental Access to Records, Directory Information, Notice of Rights and Rights to Appeal. To view these FERPA rights click the link provided.” (OSL)

### **Education for Homeless Children and Youth Programs: Learning to Succeed**

This executive summary outlines key findings of two U.S. Department of Education studies regarding barriers facing homeless children and youth. (OSL)

### **Related Links and Resources**

#### **Vermont Surrogate Parent Program**

The federal law Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA) and the Vermont state Special Education Rules and Regulations ensure that the educational rights of infants, toddlers and students are represented in the special education process. Parental involvement in planning a child's special education program is required by both federal and state regulations. Surrogate parent volunteers fill the parental role in the special education process and represent students who are in state custody or whose parents are not known or cannot be located or unaccompanied homeless youth.

#### **Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness**

Homelessness is growing in Vermont, especially among working families. It is estimated that Vermont has 4,000 homeless individuals and families each year and on any given night 88 Vermont children are sleeping in a shelter. Use this link to view Vermont data and other resources to help end homelessness. (OSL)

#### **National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY)**

NAEHCY is the national professional organization for educators and social service providers serving the needs of homeless children and youth. NAEHCY's Web site offers a number of resources, including information about its annual conference. (OSL)

#### **National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE)**

Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, NCHE offers research and information to help communities successfully address the needs of homeless children and youth and their families. (OSL)

#### **National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty**

NLCHP serves as the legal arm of the national movement to alleviate, prevent, and end homelessness through impact litigation, public policy, and public education. (OSL)

#### **Project HOPE**

The College of William and Mary administers the Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program for the Virginia Department of Education. Funding is authorized under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act, Title X, Part C or the No Child Left Behind Act. The purpose of Project HOPE is to ensure the enrollment, attendance and success of homeless children and youth in school. (OSL)

#### **U.S. Department of Education, Education for Homeless Children and Youth**

The Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program oversees the education of homeless children and youth in our nation's public schools, including the granting of McKinney-Vento funds and the monitoring of their usage. The Department provides official guidance to states and school districts on implementing the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. (OSL)